

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 A61B17/072

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 473 077 A (NOILES DOUGLAS ET AL) 25 September 1984 (1984-09-25)	1,2,4, 7-9, 14-17
Y	column 7, line 37-46 column 4, line 24,63-68 -column 6, line 52-57; figures 1-3	1,2,4, 7-9, 12-18
X	US 5 657 921 A (YOUNG WAYNE P ET AL) 19 August 1997 (1997-08-19)	19-25
Y	column 4, line 13-28,52; figure 6	1,2,4, 7-9, 12-18
X	EP 0 640 317 A (ETHICON INC) 1 March 1995 (1995-03-01) figures 4,5	19-25

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \* & \* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

5 March 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

25/03/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Assion, J-C

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 03/31652

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6 250 532 B1 (PALMER MITCHELL J ET AL) 26 June 2001 (2001-06-26) cited in the application figures 22,23,53,54 ---	8-10,16, 17,20,25
A	US 6 119 913 A (MAIN LAUREN O ET AL) 19 September 2000 (2000-09-19) column 6, line 25,26; figure 2 -----	5,6 -

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US 03/31652

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 3  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:  
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

### Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/SA/ 210**

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-18

a tool assembly having an anvil and a cartridge assembly,  
comprising a drive member formed from a flexible cable

2. Claims: 19-25

a tool assembly having an anvil and a cartridge assembly,  
comprising a dynamic clamping member including upper flange  
portion and lower flange portion

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 3

Present claim 3 lacks clarity within the meaning of Article 6 PCT in such an extent that it renders a meaningful search impossible. Consequently, no search has been carried out for claim 3.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 03/31652

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4473077	A	25-09-1984	AT 32492 T 15-03-1988
			AU 550699 B2 27-03-1986
			AU 1503683 A 08-12-1983
			BR 8307377 A 08-05-1984
			CA 1198336 A1 24-12-1985
			DE 3390015 T 17-05-1984
			EP 0095970 A2 07-12-1983
			GB 2131338 A ,B 20-06-1984
			WO 8304173 A1 08-12-1983
US 5657921	A	19-08-1997	US 5507426 A 16-04-1996
			AU 692572 B2 11-06-1998
			AU 2831995 A 15-02-1996
			CA 2155477 A1 06-02-1996
			EP 0699417 A1 06-03-1996
			JP 8173437 A 09-07-1996
EP 0640317	A	01-03-1995	US 5403312 A 04-04-1995
			AT 184467 T 15-10-1999
			AU 687405 B2 26-02-1998
			AU 6862294 A 02-02-1995
			CA 2128450 A1 23-01-1995
			DE 69420650 D1 21-10-1999
			DE 69420650 T2 25-05-2000
			EP 0640317 A1 01-03-1995
			ES 2136168 T3 16-11-1999
			GR 94100336 A 22-05-1996
			JP 7171163 A 11-07-1995
			US 5558671 A 24-09-1996
			US 5709680 A 20-01-1998
			US 5688270 A 18-11-1997
			US 5693051 A 02-12-1997
			US 5807393 A 15-09-1998
			US 5817093 A 06-10-1998
			US 6024741 A 15-02-2000
			US 5833690 A 10-11-1998
			US 5810811 A 22-09-1998
			US 5876401 A 02-03-1999
US 6250532	B1	26-06-2001	US 5711472 A 27-01-1998
			US 5312023 A 17-05-1994
			US 5326013 A 05-07-1994
			US 2002096550 A1 25-07-2002
			US 2001030219 A1 18-10-2001
			AU 671292 B2 22-08-1996
			AU 4757793 A 14-04-1994
			CA 2103969 A1 24-03-1994
			CA 2191494 A1 24-03-1994
			DE 69322241 D1 07-01-1999
			DE 69322241 T2 20-05-1999
			EP 0603472 A2 29-06-1994
			ES 2123603 T3 16-01-1999
			JP 6189969 A 12-07-1994
			US 5478003 A 26-12-1995
			US 5645209 A 08-07-1997
			US 5647526 A 15-07-1997
			US 5456401 A 10-10-1995
			US 5482197 A 09-01-1996

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Publication No

PCT/US 03/31652

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6250532	B1	AU 657364 B2	09-03-1995
		AU 2611792 A	22-04-1993
		CA 2080160 A1	19-04-1993
		CA 2426279 A1	19-04-1993
		DE 69223937 D1	12-02-1998
		DE 69223937 T2	28-05-1998
		DE 552423 T1	25-11-1993
		EP 0552423 A2	28-07-1993
		ES 2042445 T1	16-12-1993
		JP 3332965 B2	07-10-2002
		JP 5200038 A	10-08-1993
		US 5397046 A	14-03-1995
		US 5364001 A	15-11-1994
		US 5431322 A	11-07-1995
		US 5472132 A	05-12-1995
		US 5584425 A	17-12-1996
		US 5636780 A	10-06-1997
US 6119913	A 19-09-2000	CA 2258128 A1	18-12-1997
		EP 0910289 A2	28-04-1999
		JP 3488245 B2	19-01-2004
		JP 2000512185 T	19-09-2000
		WO 9747231 A2	18-12-1997
		US 6302311 B1	16-10-2001